

AMENDMENTS TO THE ABSTRACT:

Please replace the paragraph (Abstract) beginning at page 10, line 1 with the following rewritten version:

Abstract of the Disclosure

The invention discloses a balloon catheter (1) comprising a catheter shaft (2), at the distal end (3) of which an inflatable balloon (4) is arranged and at the proximal end (5) of which a connecting piece (6) is arranged, comprising a guiding wire (7) which can be passed through a guiding wire lumen (8) of the catheter shaft (2) from the proximal end (5) to the distal end (3) and through the balloon (4) and an inflation or deflation lumen (9) extending from the proximal end (5) of the catheter shaft (2) to the balloon (4), wherein a portion (10) of the catheter shaft (2) having a selectable length (L) and extending from the proximal end (5) is provided with a metal reinforcing pipe (11).

~~(Fig. 1)~~